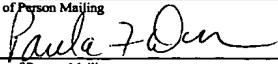


Appl. No. To Be Assigned
Atty. Docket No. CM2601MC2
Amdt. dated 2/24/04
Customer No. 27752

Certification of Express Mailing
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as Express Mail Label No.
ER381979985 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent
Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,
VA 22313-1450 on February 24, 2004

Paula F. Dunn
Name of Person Mailing

Signature of Person Mailing

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : To Be Assigned
Applicant(s) : Maurizio Tamburro
Filed : February 24, 2004
Title : Absorbent Member with Improved Fluid Handling Agent
TC/A.U. : To Be Assigned
Examiner : To Be Assigned
Conf. No. : To Be Assigned
Docket No. : CM2601MC2
Customer No. : 27752

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Before computing the fees for filing this Continuation of PCT International Application Serial No. PCT/US02/26999, please enter the following amendments.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.